

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Online Query Reports**

### **Can you help me decipher parts and pieces of this report?**

The report is broken into five basic sections:

1. Contact and basic public water supply information such as, primary source of water, service connections, the population served, operators, owner, etc.,
2. System inventory, which includes facilities, and entry points,
3. Sample schedules and monitoring requirements,
4. Sample monitoring results and
5. Violations & enforcement actions (will only be listed if applicable to the system).

### **Public Water Supply System Information Section**

#### **Why aren't the contact addresses and phone numbers listed?**

The Public Water Supply Section (PWS) decided to eliminate this from this report for security reasons.

#### **How can I change incorrect information about my system so that the PWS database has current information?**

Changes to systems are considered an inventory update and are required to be in writing from the system requesting the change for legal reasons. An Inventory Update Report form may be found on this web site under Public Drinking Water for you to download, complete and return to the PWS.

### **Facilities and Entry Points Section**

#### **Why are facilities with inactive status listed?**

Inactive facilities are listed to preserve the historical information that encompasses these facilities such as treatment and sampling history that may have been used or conducted in the past.

#### **Why aren't the well latitude/longitudes listed?**

PWS eliminated these from this report for security reasons.

#### **What happened to the first 501 possible designators for entry points and why do we always start with EP502?**

This was decided by the database designers.

## **Sample Schedules/Monitoring Requirements Section**

### **What is a schedule begin date (Schd Beg Date)?**

Schedule begin date coincides closely to the nearest period in the Standardized Monitoring Framework, yearly or three year compliance period, as set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The date is also very close to when a facility was activated

### **How can I better understand the Standardized monitoring Framework?**

For more information on the [Standardized Monitoring Framework](#) or visit [www.epa.gov/safewater/pws/pdfs/qrg\\_smonitoringframework.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/pws/pdfs/qrg_smonitoringframework.pdf). This is a reference guide that may be helpful.

### **What is an initial monitoring period begin date (Init MP Beg)?**

The initial monitoring period begin date is the date set by the PWS for compliance to begin. This date is generally the same as the schedule begin date.

## **Sample Monitoring Results Section**

### **When I see a value for a monitoring result how can I relate that to the drinking water standards?**

Visit the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html#mcls>.

### **How current are the Monitoring Results?**

Since the PWS has committed to electronic data interchange (EDI) with participating Montana certified drinking water laboratories, result files are typically uploaded from the laboratories weekly. Once received, non-participating EDI laboratory reports can take up to a month to be manually entered into our database.

### **What does Analyte/CAS No mean in Sample Results?**

The first abbreviation indicates to the PWS where the results are stored within our database. The very specific CAS No (Chemical Abstract Service Number) is a registry number given to each unique chemical substance that it indexes.

### **What does Code mean in the Sample Results Section?**

The analyte code is a number used to reference a specific analyte for PWS to run compliance against.

### **What is the number listed under each lab in the Sample Results Section?**

This is a database number assigned to each Montana Certified drinking water laboratory.

### **How can I figure out if I sampled VOCs, IOCs, and SOCs, (analyte groups) since there are so many analytes listed?**

Since the laboratories follow very specific methods to analyze these groups of analytes, once you become familiar with what analytes are contained in each method your search becomes easier. Our online query report lists sample results by first Facility ID and corresponding Sample Point ID, then each analyte alphabetically, and then by sample collection date. Unless by a fluke, the Laboratory does not analyze or report all analytes in each method, you can spot check target analytes from each method and assume all group analytes were also analyzed. For example,

1,1,1,2-TETRACHLOROETHANE is one target analyte in the VOC1 analyte group  
BARIUM (phase 2) and ANTIMONY (phase 5) are both representative analytes in the INO1 analyte group

2,4,5-TP (Silvex) indicates one target analyte in the SOC1 analyte group from method 515

3-HYDROXYCARBOFURAN indicates one target analyte in the SOC1 analyte group from method 531

ALACHLOR (Lasso) is one target analyte in the SOC1 analyte group from method 525

#### **NOTE:**

ANTIMONY (phase 5) is also in the INO2 analyte group

2,4,5-TP (Silvex) is also in the SOC2 analyte group

3-HYDROXYCARBOFURAN is also in the SOC3 analyte group

ALACHLOR (Lasso) is also in the SOC4 analyte group

## **Violations & Enforcements Section**

### **What does Viol Date mean?**

Violation date indicates the date that the PWS staff validated a violation in the database.

### **What does the Comp Beg and Comp End dates mean?**

These dates indicate the compliance timeframe that the violation has occurred in. Generally, compliance begin and end dates will be within a monthly, quarterly, yearly or three year period.

**What does Fed FY, Viol No, Type Sev, and Cate mean?**

These are codes used in the database that indicate in which federal fiscal year the violation was validated, the violation number, the database assigned to it, the type of violation such as monitoring/reporting, Maximum Contaminant level (MCL), and severity of the violation.

**Does SOX (state compliance achieved) mean my violation has been resolved?**

A violation has not necessarily been resolved once the code of SOX has been entered into the database. SOXes are just codes used by the database managers and at times are listed although still preliminary as in the TCR rule. It is always best to check with the applicable rule manager regarding violations. DEQ Enforcement Division can pursue any violation to the extent that they warrant a case.

Andrea Vickory, Water Quality Specialist, PWS January 9, 2006